

II. — Forty-eight Hours in Sarawak. By GEOFFREY MEADE-WALDO, M.A.

It was the author's good fortune to receive an invitation from the Earl of Crawford to accompany him in the capacity of naturalist on a prolonged yachting cruise to the Far East during the winter of 1907-8.

My host, fully realizing what opportunities were bound to present themselves to the collector or naturalist during such a cruise as the present, followed his usual custom of including a naturalist among the party on board, in order that something, at least, might be done to enrich the collections of the British Museum, of which he is one of the Trustees.

At the request of the Editor of this Journal I have undertaken to write a few notes on the fleeting visit paid to this fascinating country, and to add a list of such insects as were captured during the short time available. It has not been possible to get specific names for all species, since some of them belong to neglected families in their respective orders.

The fine yacht 'Valhalla,' R.Y.S., on which the cruise was made, was built by Messrs. Ramage and Ferguson, of Leith, in 1892, and is 1490 tons, yacht measurement; she is fully-rigged, capable of sailing ten or eleven knots in a good breeze, and of steaming about the same speed. At the conclusion of the present voyage Lord Crawford had sailed some 240,000 miles in the vessel.

The 'Valhalla' left Cowes on November 8th, and arrived at Singapore on January 26th, having called at various places *en route*. We left for Kuching on the afternoon of February 8th, arriving off Po Point on the 10th, where we anchored in a considerable ground swell, being unable to proceed up the river owing to the state of the tide. A start was made up the river early next morning, and we anchored off the signal station at Pinding about 10 o'clock.

To one who was comparatively new to the astonishing depths of the forest and magnificent exuberance of tropical nature, the dense mangrove swamps and nipa palms with their handsome fronds—the principal vegetation on the river banks—were indeed a revelation. Occasionally a

tall, dead tree, covered with masses of flowering orchids, would give colour to the otherwise sombre background. In the evening we saw plenty of the curious Proboscis Monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*) on the river bank.

Early next morning I landed at the Signal Station for the only real collecting walk which it was possible to make. It is only necessary to mention the more important captures made during this walk; suffice it to say that both I myself and the seaman who accompanied me were kept fully occupied with nets and boxes.

The landing was accomplished with considerable difficulty; all went well as far as the Signal Station, which could be reached in the launch; but wishing to embark at a point further up the river, it was necessary to make use of a sampan, which was fortunately available. From this we landed on the tidal mud off the end of the road to Kuching; dry land was reached after walking along slippery tree-trunks, which served as a path through the riverside mud.

Almost the first insects caught by the roadside were two female specimens of the magnificent "carpenter" bee (*Xylocopa malayana*, Cam.), flying at some flowering creeper. This species was described from a male specimen, and the female was hitherto unknown to science; in size it ranks with the largest bees found in Borneo, although the female is smaller than the male. In colour this fine insect is shining black, with a dense green pubescence on the thorax and base of the abdomen. Another good capture was a specimen of the little social wasp (*Icaria maculifrons*, Cam.), of which only one specimen, a co-type, hitherto represented the species in the National Collection.

At night a number of moths were caught at the yacht's lights. Disappointment was general the next morning on learning that we were to weigh anchor as soon as possible, since the damp heat was proving too much for certain members of the party. One of the last things we did up the river was to purchase a charming young "Wawa" or Silvery Gibbon (*Hylobates leuciscus*) from a native who came alongside in a boat. On arriving home Lord Crawford presented it to the Zoological Society, where it is still thriving. We reached the open sea about lunch time, and anchored again off Po Point, in order to give a last opportunity for collecting. A scramble up the steep slope, the greater part of the way by means of steps cut in tree-trunks laid up the slope, brought us to the summit, and incidentally

the lighthouse, where the lighthouse-keeper most hospitably refreshed us with lime squashes. Quite a satisfactory bag of moths was made on the lamp and its surroundings, the captures including a fine specimen of the handsome Noctuid (*Stictoptera variegata*, Hmps.), a species new to science. This same light has since produced many good species of insects for the Sarawak Museum, the Curator of which informs me that lighthouses in Sarawak are utilized for collecting insects with great success. Time, however, was short, and we soon had to return to sea-level, where we met a fine Monitor Lizard, just as we were setting out for the yacht, which put to sea as soon as we were on board.

LIST OF INSECTS CAPTURED.

LEPIDOPTERA RHOPALOCERA.

- NYMPHALIDÆ.—*Radena vulgaris*, Butl.
Tronga crameri, L.
Mygdosoma fuscum, Feld.
Mycalesis fusca, Butl.
M. mineus, L.
Ypthima pandorcus, Moore,
var. *corticaria*, Butl.
Cethosia hypsea, Feld.
LYCÆNIDÆ.—*Zizera karsandra*, Moore.
HESPERIDÆ.—*Hyarotes adrastus*, Moore.

LEPIDOPTERA HETEROCERA.

- ARCTIADÆ.—*Celama mesotherma*, Hmps.
Ænistis entella, Cram., subsp. *delia*, F.
Diacrisia strigatula, Wlk.
NOCTUIDÆ.—*Stictoptera cucullioides*, Guen.
S. variegata, Hmps.
Labanda continua, Wlk.
Ophiusa fasciculipes, Wlk.
LYMANTRIADÆ.—*Lœlia adara*, Moore.
GEOMETRIDÆ.—*Boarmia acaciaria*, Boisd.
THYRIDIDÆ.—*Rhabdoneura myrtæa*, Drury.
PYRALIDÆ.—*Schœnobius bipunctifera*, Wlk.
Volabilis proximalis, Wlk.
Hypsipyla robusta, Moore.
Endotricha decessalis, Wlk.
Bocchoris adipalis, Zell.
Glyphodes marginata, Hmps.
Noorda nigripunctalis, Hmps.

DIPTERA.

LIMNOBIDÆ.—*Eriocera infixa*, Walk. Two females.

SYRPHIDÆ.—*Microdon* sp. One female.

HYMENOPTERA.

SCOLIIDÆ.—*Discolia apherema*, Cam. Male.

Elis iris, Sauss. Female.

VESPIDÆ.—*Icaria lugubris*, Sm.

I. maculifrons, Cam.

Vespa cincta, F.

APIDÆ.—*Xylocopa collaris*, Lep.

X. malayana, Cam. Female.

Crocisa sp.

Melipona apicalis, Sm.